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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,609	10/15/2001	Richard Kane Stair	TI-33257	2593

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/977,609

Applicant(s)

STAIR ET AL.

Examiner

Minh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-24 and 27-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 25, 26 and 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 01 October 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicants' amendment filed on 10/1/02 has been received and entered in the case. The amendment presented therein overcomes the objections to claims 7-8, 12, 20 and 25-26 noted in section 6 of the previous Office Action, and therefore, are withdrawn. The objections to claims 12-15, 25-26 and 33 noted in section 5 of the previous Office Action are repeated, for the reasons set forth below. This action is FINAL.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 12-15, 25-26 and 33 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claims, or amend the claims to place the claims in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claims in independent form.

Claim 12 is not further limit the subject matter of claim 1 because the recited second system is not part of the first system which is the subject matter of claim 1, i.e., the second system in combination with the first system of claim 1 is a broader, more encompassing structure, which does not further define the system for extracting a threshold voltage of claim 1.

Claim 13 is not further limit the subject matter of claim 1 because the recited capacitor multiplier system is not part of the system for extracting the threshold voltage which is the subject matter of claim 1, i.e., the capacitor multiplier system in combination with the system of

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claim 1 is a broader, more encompassing structure which does not further define the system for extracting the threshold voltage of claim 1.

Claims 14-15 are objected for the same reason noted in claim 13.

Claim 25 is not further limit the subject matter of claim 16 for the same reason noted in claim 12.

Claim 26 is not further limit the subject matter of claim 16 for the same reason noted in claim 13.

Claim 33 is not further limit the subject matter of claim 32 because the step of providing a capacitor multiplier circuit is not part of the method for extracting a threshold voltage.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/1/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the argument that the additional of the second system to claim 12 in combination with the first system further limits claim 1 since this addition includes additional elements. The Applicants misinterpret the meaning of the 37 CFR 1.75(c). Under 37 CFR 1.75(c), additional elements must further limit the *subject matter* of the previous claim. It is clear that the subject matter of claim 1 is the first system for extracting a threshold voltage, the addition of the second system for extracting a threshold voltage to claim 12 does not further limit the subject matter of claim 1 which is the first system for extracting a threshold voltage, i.e., in order to be considered further limit the subject matter of the previous claim, the additional elements must be inside the subject matter of claim 1 which is inside the first system for

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extracting a threshold voltage. As clearly explained in the preceding objection, the second system in combination of the first system of claim 1 is a broader, more encompassing structure, which does not further define the system for extracting a threshold voltage of claim 1.

Regarding the argument that the capacitor multiplier system included in claim 13 further limits the subject matter of claim 1. As clearly explained in the preceding objection, the capacitor multiplier system in combination with the system of claim 1 is a broader, more encompassing structure which does not further define the system for extracting the threshold voltage of claim 1.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 1-11, 16-24 and 27-32 are allowed.

These claims are allowed for the reasons noted in the previous Office Action.

5. Claims 12-15, 25-26 and 33 are allowed after amended to overcome the objections noted above. These claims are allowed for the reasons noted above.

*Conclusion*

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-306-9179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Minh Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2816

MN  
November 14, 2002